between the States and the Centre for controlling vehicular movement in urban areas. "Urban Transport" is a State subject and therefore measures to address traffic and transportation related matters are required to be taken by the respective State Governments. However, with a view to ensuring coordinated planning among various agencies of the State Government, engaged in different aspects of urban transporation, the draft National Urban Transport Policy has recommended that the State Governments set up Unified Metropolitan Transport Authorities.

The draft National Urban Transport Policy was discussed with the Chief Ministers and Transport Ministers of the States on the 29th of June, 2005. Apart from the suggestion regarding the Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority, the draft policy also recommends according priority to public transport and non-motorized transport and adopting innovative financing methods for required investments. It offers Central Government's financial support, by way of equity/viability gap funding for mass transit systems in large cities.

While there was overwhelming support for the policy, suggestions relating to including smaller cities within the ambit of the Policy and making suitable amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 were made in the said Conference.

Menace of beggars

*†103 DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of beggars and other vendors is on the constant rise at the traffic signals on Delhi roads;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that accidents on roads are rising as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the measures Government propose to take to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) In the absence of any reliable data, it is not possible to indicate the increase/decrease of the number of beggars and other vendors at the traffic signals on Delhi roads.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Road accident can be attributed to a number of factors which, *inter-alia*, are increasing number of vehicles, inadequate training of drivers, lack of knowledge about traffic rules amongst the drivers, disobedience of traffic rules by the drivers, non-use of zebra crossing, foot over bridges and subways by the pedestrians and the presence of beggars and vendors. However, as per the available information, the number of fatal accidents for the period January to July, 2005 has reduced by 70 compared to corresponding period last year.

(c) In addition to the regular apprehending of beggars and vendors by the Delhi Police, the Government of NCT of Delhi has constituted an anti-begging squad consisting of officers of the Department of Social Welfare and Delhi Police for apprehension of beggars and their detention at certified institutions. A special court with one Metropolitan Magistrate has also been established. At present, there are 11 certified custodial/residential institutions for beggars in Delhi. Facilities like shelter, boarding, lodging, medical care, vocational training, counselling, etc are provided at these institutions to wean them away from the practice of begging. Delhi Government has also constituted a State Advisory Committee, which is looking into the need for amendment of the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 which was extended to Delhi in March, 1961 and carrying out surveys to determine the background of people indulging in this practice in order to take up effective measures to curb the incidence of begging and vending.

Compulsory Education Bill

*107. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) has considered/is considering a Compulsory Education Bill;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to introduce common school system as per the National Education Policy, 1986, in the Compulsory Education Bill;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the decision taken, if any;

(d) whether there is any proposal before CABE that would result in abdication of State's constitutional obligation to provide adequate financial resources for elementary eduation;